

In the claims

The following amendments are made with respect to the claims in the international application PCT/GB03/02958.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1 (Currently amended). A method for the detection of a cell, ~~which~~ wherein said method comprises immobilising the cell in a device also containing a sensor, and introducing a growth medium, wherein the sensor is sensitive to a product of the cell's growth; and detecting any change in an optical characteristic of the sensor.

2 (Currently amended). [[A]] The method according to claim 1, wherein the cell is immobilised on a magnetic particle.

3 (Currently amended). [[A]] The method according to claim 1~~or claim 2~~, wherein the cell is a spore cell.

4 (Currently amended). [[A]] The method according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~, wherein the cell is a bacterial cell.

5 (Currently amended). [[A]] The method according to claim 4, wherein the bacterium is selected from the group consisting of *Bacillus anthracis*, *Bacillus globigii*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Bacillus megaterium*, *Legionella pneumophila*, *Francisella tularensis*, *Yersinia pestis*, *Salmonella* spp., *E.coli* spp., *Listeria* spp., *Bacillus thuringiensis* and *Campylobacter* spp.

6 (Currently amended). [[A]] The method according to any preceding claim 1, wherein the cell is immobilised by means of an antibody.

7 (Currently amended). [[A]] The method according to any preceding claim 1, wherein the sensor is a holographic sensor.

8 (Currently amended). A device suitable for use in a method according to claim 6, which the detection of a cell by a method comprising immobilising the cell in a device that also contains a sensor, and introducing a growth medium, wherein the sensor is sensitive to a product of the cell's growth; and detecting any change in an optical characteristic of the sensor; wherein said device comprises a chamber including a sensor and a growth medium, and an inlet for a sample.

9 (Currently amended). [[A]] The device according to claim 8, which further comprises means for immobilising an antibody in the chamber or elsewhere in the device that provides a fluidic link with the sensor.

10 (Currently amended). [[A]] The device according to claim 9, wherein the antibody is immobilised on a wall of the chamber.

11 (Currently amended). [[A]] The device according to claim 9, which additionally comprises the antibody immobilised on a magnetic particle, and the said means can provide a magnetic field.

12 (Currently amended). [[A]] The device according to ~~any of the claims 8 to 11~~ claim 8, further comprising a container including a buffer solution, in connection with the sample inlet.

13 (Currently amended). [[A]] The device according to ~~any of claims 8 to 12~~ claim 8, which comprises a series of said chambers.

14 (Currently amended). [[A]] The device according to ~~any of claims 8 to 13~~ claim 8, wherein the sensor is a holographic sensor.